

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Anthropology
ANTH155: Forensic Osteology, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

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|------------------|---|
| Instructor(s): | Elizabeth Weiss |
| Office Location: | N/A |
| Telephone: | N/A |
| Email: | Elizabeth.Weiss@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 10 AM to 11 AM or by scheduled appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | N/A |
| Classroom: | https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1419168 |
| Prerequisites: | ANTH012 or Instructor's Approval |

Course Description

The human skeletal system for forensic identification. Lab experience in identification of osteological material to answer questions regarding sex, age, ethnicity and cause of death.

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course is delivered as an asynchronous, fully online course. All instruction takes place online, with no physical in-person or on-campus meetings or activities. Students will need a computer and reliable internet access with the bandwidth to stream YouTube videos and take online exams. Students will also need working speakers; this may require a headset or headphones. Students should not rely on public hotspots, such as coffee shops, for delivery of this course, especially for taking online exams and quizzes. Access to reliable internet is the responsibility of the student.

Students will need to use Canvas. For help with using Canvas see http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources

Canvas uses Turnitin.com for originality reports. All student assignments are run through this system to ensure originality of work. To ensure processing, students are required to submit assignments as Word documents (.docx). Students using Google docs or Pages will need to save documents in the .docx format.

Online exams require the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser with webcam, which will require camera monitoring. It is the student's responsibility to ensure compatibility between Respondus Lockdown Browser and webcam and their computer. To download this software visit:

<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=967937270>

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have increased:

1. Understanding of culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
2. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
3. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
4. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
5. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Christensen, Angi M, Passalacqua, Nicholas V, and Bartelink, Eric J. Forensic Anthropology. San Diego: Elsevier Science & Technology, 2019. Web.

https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1vr9akn/TN_cdi_askewshotls_vlebooks_9780128157350

Tersigni-Tarrant, Shirley, Tersigni-Tarrant, MariaTeresa A., and Shirley, Natalie R. Forensic Anthropology: An Introduction. Boca Raton, Florida ; London, [England] ; New York, [New York]: CRC, 2013. Web.

https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1vr9akn/01CAL5_ALMA51537130790002901

White, Tim D, Black, Michael T, and Folkens, Pieter A. Human Osteology. San Diego: Elsevier Science & Technology, 2011. Web.

https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1vr9akn/TN_cdi_askewshotls_vlebooks_9780080920856

(These books are available for free on the SJSU Library website – the links above should help you locate them; you may have to log on with your SJSU ID, password, and Duo number).

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Computer, Internet Access, Webcam, Speakers/Headphones

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required - Delete the word “Required” in final draft)

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Quizzes: There will be a quiz for each module. All of which will require Lockdown Browser with or without webcam. Quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, maps, and identification. Bone identification questions are cumulative throughout the quizzes. All quizzes are due on Fridays before midnight!

Other assignments: For each module, there will be an assignment, which may consist of an activity, a reflective writing assignment, or contribution to a discussion. These assignments are not graded, but will help you do well on the quizzes. All assignments are due on Thursdays before midnight!

Final Examination or Evaluation

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

There will be a cumulative final exam, which will require Lockdown Browser with Webcam.

Grading Information

Quizzes: 15 X 5 points each = 75 points.

Final Exam: 25 points.

Extra credit options may arise.

A plus = 100 to 97 points

A = 96 to 94 points

A minus = 93 to 90 points

B plus = 89 to 87 points

B = 86 to 84 points

B minus = 83 to 80 points

C plus = 79 to 77 points

C = 76 to 74 points

C minus = 73 to 70 points

D plus = 69 to 67 points

D = 66 to 64 points

D minus = 63 to 60 points

F = 59 points or lower

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ANTH155 / Forensic Osteology, Spring 2021, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

| Module | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>Readings are listed by the first author's name for each text mentioned above.</i> |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 1 | 1/27-1/29 | Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Christensen et al. Chapter 1; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapter 3 |
| 2 | 2/1-2/5 | Thorax Identification White et al. Chapters 6 and 7 |
| 3 | 2/8-2/12 | Shoulder and Arm Identification White et al. Chapters 8 and 9 |
| 4 | 2/15-2/19 | Hand Identification White et al. Chapter 10 |
| 5 | 2/22-2/26 | Bone or Not; Human or Not; Modern or Not Christensen et al. Chapter 4 |
| 6 | 3/1-3/5 | Pelvis and Leg Identification White et al. Chapters 11 and 12 |
| 7 | 3/8-3/12 | Foot Identification White et al. Chapter 13 |
| 8 | 3/15-3/19 | Sex and Age Christensen et al. Chapters 8, 10; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapters 8-10; White et al. Chapter 18 (sections 18.1-18.4) |
| 9 | 3/22-3/26 | Stature Estimates Christensen et al. Chapters 11; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapter 12; White et al. Chapter 18 (section 18.5) |
| | 3/29-4/2 | Spring Break |
| 10 | 4/5-4/9 | Cranium Identification White et al. Chapter 4 |
| 11 | 4/12-4/16 | Teeth Identification White et al. Chapter 5 and Decision Tree Appendix 2 |
| 12 | 4/19-4/23 | Ancestry Christensen et al. Chapter 9; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapters 11 and 13; White et al. Chapter 18 (section 18.6) |
| 13 | 4/26-4/30 | Individual Christensen et al. Chapters 12 and 14; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapter 20; White et al. Chapter 18 (section 18.7) |
| 14 | 5/3-5/7 | Forensic Taphonomy Christensen et al. Chapter 5; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapters 17 and 18; |

| Module | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>Readings are listed by the first author's name for each text mentioned above.</i> |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| | | White et al. Chapters 20 and 23 |
| 15 | 5/10-5/14 | Homicide or Accident Christensen et al. Chapter 13; Tersigni-Tarrant et al. Chapter 14 and 15; White et al. Chapter 24 |
| 16 | 5/17-5/20 | REVIEW for FINAL |
| Final Exam | 5/20 | Online, Due Thursday May 20 th before Midnight |